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LETTER DATED 31 MARCH 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GREECE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

With reference to the paragraphs on the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia contained in your report submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 947 (1994) (S/1995/222), I would kindly request that the letter which I addressed to you on 27 March 1995, a copy of which is attached for your convenience, be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Christos G. ZACHARAKIS
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 27 March 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Greece addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the paragraphs on the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia contained in your report submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 947 (1994) (S/1995/222), I would like to refer to my letter dated 21 September 1994 (S/1994/1089) addressed to you in which I pointed out that the use of the term "economic blockade imposed by Greece" was not appropriate when referring to my Government's countermeasures in response to a long series of provocations by Skopje, all of which have been duly and timely brought to your attention.

In that letter, I underlined the adverse and painful effects that my Government's decision has had on the Greek economy itself, at a time when the latter is already suffering from the continuation of economic sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). I also stressed that Greece was unfortunately left with no other choice, in view of the intransigent stance adopted by the Government of Skopje.

In the light of the above, I was surprised to note that, in your latest report, you referred not only to the "economic blockade imposed by Greece" (para. 81), but also to the "trade embargo imposed by Greece" (para. 43), a term which is, in my view, equally inappropriate. The continued use of those terms could mislead both the members of the Security Council and, in general, the States Members of the United Nations, since it certainly does not give the full picture, in particular with regard to the long series of provocative actions taken by the Government of Skopje that preceded my Government's response.

While reiterating this important position of principle, and requesting that you kindly take it into consideration in the future, I would like to assure you, once again, of Greece's commitment to the efforts aiming at finding a fair and forward-looking solution to the issue of our differences with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which would be not only to the mutual benefit of the two countries concerned, but also in the interest of peace and stability in the area. This sincere wish was recently proved by my Government's prompt and positive response to Mr. Cyrus Vance's invitation for the resumption, in early April, of negotiations between the parties under his auspices, pursuant to Security Council resolution 845 (1993).

(Signed) Christos G. ZACHARAKIS
Permanent Representative